

**REMARKS**

The Examiner's comments from the Office Action mailed October 9, 2008 have been carefully considered. Claims 13-20 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 1-12 remain pending in the application. No claims have been amended and no new matter has been added. Reexamination and allowance of claims 1-12 are respectfully requested.

**Allowed Claims**

Applicants thank the Examiner for allowing pending claims 1-12.

**Claim Rejections**

Claims 13-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Publication No. 2002/0181922 to Xin et al. (hereinafter "Xin"). Claims 13-20 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer, thereby rendering the rejection moot. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Applicants disagree with the Examiner's interpretation of Xin. However, claims 13-20 have been canceled to expedite prosecution. Applicants reserve the right to pursue claims 13-20 in a later-filed continuing application. Applicants do not otherwise concede the correctness of the rejection and reserve the right to make additional arguments if necessary.

**Conclusion**

Applicants respectfully request a Notice of Allowance. If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would advance the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,



MERCHANT & GOULD P. C.  
P. O. Box 2903  
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55402-0903  
(612) 332-6300

By   
Steven C. Bruess  
Reg. No. 34,130  
SCB/JKS:rlik

Date: March 9, 2009